An

Essay

On

Accidental Uterine Haemorrhage

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To Dr Gilbert S Woolhull.

Dear Sir,

Conscious of the many acts of kindness I have received from you, since I first entered as a medical student the portals of your office; and cherishing a sense of gratitude for such generous acts: I gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing my thanks to you, for the kindness, and attention, you heretofore have shown me.

May your life be prolonged to an age replete with honour, as it now is with admiration, is the sincere wish of your much obliged, and highly favoured pupil.

Allison E Perrine.

To Dr William P Dewees.

Dear Sir.

Short as has been the time, since I have had the advantage of your private instruction, yet to you am I indebted for many a valuable suggestion, both in public and in private; and of you have I imbibed a taste for that branch of medical science, that has so long found in you a second Baudelocque. In consideration of such advantages, permit me thus publicly to declare my thanks and satisfaction.

May your life, so valuable to the afflicted, be long spent in the cause of suffering humanity, and in the promulgation of useful knowledge. And may your labours entitle you to a name, that shall rank with a Haller and a Hunter

Milton E Perrine.

Uterine Hæmorrhage.

As the term Uterine Hæmorrhage signifies a discharge of pure blood from the internal face of the uterus, occurring at any period of female existence; it follows that the discharge improperly called "Menorrhagia," and still more improperly considered as an "immoderate flow of the menses," should be considered under the same term, and treated of in this dissertation. But all discharges from the unimpregnated uterus, are of little moment when compared with that tremendous, and overwhelming torrent, that threatens the pregnant female with the inevitable destruction of her own, or that of her infant's life; or if she escape it will be but with a health, that shall soon bring upon her all the horrors that attend phthisis, or the devastations of general dropsy. A case of ascites from this cause occurred in the Alms

those during the present summer and recommend numerous of the most eminent divines of Dr. Jackson's & the Cambridge Law men in London the abolition of the new Island of Europe and America, which name do remain to the country which gave them birth; & is that one of the meanest, and some so prevalent, and yet most weak in instruction; and it is the very upon the national Government we acknowledge that "though much money has been employed upon it, there is reason to fear that the increase of many things, which are not at present approved, is wanting to the perfection of the work of practice." Though I do not expect to advance any thing on the investigations of the divines; yet I hope to succeed in giving a clear and concise account of its nature, causes, and treatment, and in increasing the samples under with a few improvements, and re-arranged them, for ease & the nature and pain where consciousness [illegible]

+ vide Introd. to Mich. Francis' [illegible] p. [illegible]

J'ajoute ici, que j'ai pu et mes [illegible] commencer, dans [illegible] et de [illegible] et de [illegible] et de

General Illness hæmorrhage.

It is a very common thing for women to be seized with a violent mental, or bodily disorder, immediately after a hæmorrhage, and it is a matter of the greatest importance, on account of the danger of the mental disorder terminating, and its detection is often difficult of the experienced, to find it out, and medical men under them the symptoms, may, from carelessness, be overlooked, unless they are on the watch, among women are subject* and delicate. The causes of this hæmorrhage are various, and each requires a separate consideration: 1st. Disease of the organs of the generation; 2d. a separation of a portion of the placenta, of the membranes, or of both the cord is concerned; 3d. a rupture of the uterus, or when the cord passed into the cavity of the uterus from the cord is concerned. Though a hæmorrhage

* see Syst. of Obst. p. 157
† see Diseases of women vol 2 p. 280

many persons from the unusual appearance, yet it demands a slight consideration; as Hellis*, Hoerst, and Baudelocque, from the common, their own sense and usage in the occurrence. Hence it appears that Dr Rigby's declamation is only circumstantial to one case in a late course, & he declares "that as it perhaps may never occur again, I think it deserves not to be considered among the general causes of the uterine hemorrhage." Without any remark of my own, I shall only appeal for its refutation to the assertion of my venerable Preceptor "it is fortunately" says he* "out of rare occurrence, but its management on that account should be the better defined." Again, it would appear that Dr Rigby is equally incorrect, when he says*** "that the separation of the placenta from the uterus is the proximate cause of every considerable discharge of blood from the womb." yet it is truly of rare

* vide Van Swieten's Commentaries Sect 1304
- vide Denneis' Baudelocque p. 272
** vide Denneis' Baudelocque p. 272
# vide Rigby on Uterine Hæmorrhage p. 15
‡ vide Denneis Mict. p. 464
*** vide Rigby on Uterine Hæmor. p. 7

accounts, or if it be not easy to comprehend the manner in which, and at what time, it could have been, as Baudelocque and others* and he says the contrary, yet the economy of the uterus and vessels is against it; for if the calix be evacuated, the contractions of the muscular fibres of the uterus cause it to grasp the placenta so as to render it immoveable; and if the waters are retained, their quantity is so nearly in equilibrio, with that of the child that neither will prematurely. Notwithstanding, this does sometimes take place, but in such cases it must be evident, that the blood is extravasated in the cavity of the membranes and thus eludes the most careful examination, until symptoms of a most

* Vide Dewees Baudelocque p. 123

[illegible] case, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible], and which, as in the condition of all the cases in which death is not by haemorrhage; this proves that Dr Denman* [illegible] assured that the particles of a putrified placenta are not absorbed into the constitution, and become the cause of dangerous [illegible] than a [illegible] of [illegible]; or rather that the putridity of the placenta & the coagulum, are not the cause of the disease, which is more generally owing to the earliness or violence of the symptoms. In proof of this point, the Doctor+ tells us that he once knew a placenta to remain fifteen days with little sign of putrefaction. However from a proper attention to cleanliness uterine haemorrhage, will not only [illegible] the majority of the disease, and the danger of negligence; but will add to them the [illegible] of [illegible]riage, more from its effect on the system, than from the quantity of blood effused, or on the [illegible] the [illegible] when, we are to execute what

* Vide Denman, vol. [illegible] p. 472

\+ Vide Denman vol. [illegible] p. 501

[illegible]

Epître deuxième [illegible].

[illegible] grandes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Should the brain and its appendages be perfect, or nearly so, the connection with the other vital parts is not so close, or the influence of the mind on the body, or the reverse, is not so great; we see the expansion of these objects, which are so small, more than the general communication, which is very obscure with so much ease, so intermediate, as in a more advanced period of life, when the connection has grown stronger, is formed on larger scales, or the connection is much greater, and of a kind. Therefore the danger of sudden increase, or of its sudden diminishes, as gestation advances. Numerous cases of this kind have been observed by writers: as, 1st, to show a time, that agency of any malady is certainly doubtful; 2d, measured motions; 3d, passions or emotions of the mind; and, 4th, returns that have still been thus down as causes of this

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sedimentary, for they are formed in successive
layers of water and are found in more or less
regular series of deposition and thickness,
sometimes the strata are continuous over
wide areas and sometimes, owing to erosion
and denudation, lost. The causes of fracturing
are various and, though, in general, natural
movement; yet, there are instances of the
results, artificial. We can not assign the cause
of this decade, whose action is unknown,
and which, produce distinct impact on the
region, and attention to the accidents.
Attitude to the indications of the, geologic
and the mode of the strata, giving rise to
one of the most interesting and important dis-
cussions of geology, viz. relation of the age and
of fossils experienced. In succession our inqui-
ries in the treatment of new subject, it appears
proper that it should be arranged into four

matter; 1st, into the false notion of conception and the false moral of date-gestation; 2d, into the misunderstanding of the uterine period. Utero-gestation; 3d, into that period between the birth of the child and the appearance of the menses; 4th, into that period when the appearance of the menses.

"The Period."

Now, that the period of the fifth month of utero-gestation, the ovum is entirely surrounded with the walls of the uterus, so that the attachment of one to the other, even in every point of view, and from every point of view, even the corresponding premature to abortion cannot take place, it would be surprised, and indeed interesting to the physiologist to investigate the whole why women are more subject to abortion than animals; and why those females who are deprived of the happiness of the more intelligent division of society are more

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] happy [illegible], [illegible] delusion [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] in life [illegible] and realize. But [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and it is no more than [illegible] that it should ever remain shrouded in obscurity and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of nature. In the commencement [illegible] [illegible] disease [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] robust, the pulse full, and pain not acute. She complains not. Her usual occupation enlists her attention, and in spite of every injunction, she forgets the pain, and disregards the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] gradually or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] under the contents of the uterus are unchanged. The phenomena of abortion is involved in [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], for it will sometimes take place when we least expect it, or recovery happen when all our

hopes had been abandoned. But in general, when there is considerable [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] men- [illegible] towards the [illegible] [illegible]. Dr. Bard has declared* that [illegible] bleeding [illegible] prevent the discharge, miscarriage can seldom be [illegible]; [illegible] sometimes must since it is so difficult to point out any precise diagnostic mark [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] practice, [illegible] [illegible] to succeed. The indications in the treatment of this period are, 1st. to arrest the [illegible]; and 2d. prevent a recurrence of the haemorrhage. [illegible]

* See Bard [illegible] p. 13[illegible]

same nature when demanded; and by persisting, all [illegible] [illegible] in a [illegible] or [illegible] form. The next resort is [illegible]; the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] applications; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] incapable of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. In the [illegible] of [illegible] uterine haemorrhages generally, our learned Professor of Midwifery observes* (whose observations, indeed, should always be respected) that they should be combated with Ipecacuanha, in the proportion of half a grain, [illegible] [illegible] to about two grains of Opium; to be repeated

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* vide James Burns' Mid. [illegible] p. 3.5 vol III

[illegible]

[illegible]

Second Period.

Should the woman have escaped abortion, and arrived thus far in her pregnancy, she may nevertheless be exposed to a dangerous, nay fatal, relapse; a period which comprises the last month, nay the commencement of the ninth.

[illegible] is an [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] however the presence [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to give a sufficient [illegible] to the patient [illegible] [illegible], and generally succeeds: should it [illegible], however, we are warranted in [illegible] the latter. Before we proceed to [illegible] on this [illegible], we should examine the state of the [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible].

Third Period.

This period includes all that time, between the delivery of the child and the expulsion of the placenta. The hemorrhage can only happen, during this period, when a portion or the whole of the placenta is separated from the uterus; and this separation can only be effected by uterine contractions, unless mechanical violence has been applied to the placenta, either, directly, or indirectly. The [illegible] [illegible] mistake is [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] almost always [illegible] upon the [illegible] the [illegible]-

[illegible], or a miscarriage. [illegible] cannot take place, so long as the adhesion of the placenta to the uterus is maintained; in these cases it [illegible] that [illegible] of that [illegible]. [illegible] be borne, however, in mind, by any of the several causes of uterine hæmorrhage, by the inactivity, atony or derangement and irregularity in progress, or the natural efforts of the uterus upon that organ; and should the fundamental action of the uterus be insufficient for the expulsion of the placenta, we must expect a placenta in opposition to the [illegible] of [illegible], the inertia of the uterus and the rapidity of the circulation. Though the placenta is generally expelled by the natural efforts of the uterus, after parturition; yet it sometimes happens, that it is retained, either; [illegible], many [illegible] of the [illegible] of the placenta; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the treatment.

that the uterus is found in the third condition. Although the uterus is seldom subject to this irregular contraction, yet it does sometimes take place, and then we have a concealed hemorrhage, from a tonic contraction of the neck of the uterus, whilst the body and fundus are in a state of inertia. We should in this case commence with frictions on the abdomen, cold applications, saccharum saturni, secale cornutum, and brandy and water if indicated. Should these fail, a hand should be introduced within the os uteri, and remove the coagulum; then grasp the placenta, rotating the hand against the parietes of the uterus, until contractions come, and then, and not till then, should the placenta be withdrawn.

Fourth Period.

Under this term, we include all discharges of blood, that may occur after the expulsion

of the placenta; and it may be either a continuation of that which existed before the expulsion of the placenta, or it may follow the exclusion of that mass. In either case if it is not produced, it is certainly kept up by inertia of the uterus. In general the hemorrhage takes place soon after delivery, but sometimes it occurs many hours afterwards, for even after the uterus has contracted, it may become atonic, again relax, and open the mouths of a thousand bleeding vessels. In any of these cases, our whole care should be directed towards preventing or removing inertia with all its dire effects, by producing the tonic contractions of the uterus; and the remedies heretofore enumerated are all sufficient to the accomplishment of the great desiderata.

Finis.